

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A method for comparison of documents found on a network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units and hub processing units, the method on an information processing unit comprising the steps of:

receiving a user search request on a concept of interest to a user;
returning search result items based upon the user search request; and
determining if a search engine is coupled to a comparison system for comparing content of at least two documents identified in the search results, wherein the comparison system returns a numeric similarity value which represents the similarity of the documents.

2. (Previously Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein if the determining step determines that the search engine is supported by the comparison system, then:

parsing the search result items by a result set manager; and
identifying any document identifiers in the search result items and marking them by the result set manager.

3. (Previously Amended) The method as defined in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

retrieving knowledge of a structure and content of the search result items by the result set manager from a database.

4. (Original) The method as defined in claim 3, further comprising the step of:

passing marked search result items to a Graphical User Interface(GUI) / Event Manager.

5. (Original) The method as defined in claim 4, further comprising the step of:

associating an event handler to each search result item by a GUI / Event Manager.

6. (Original) The method as defined in claim 5, further comprising the step of:
displaying an enhanced search result item set in a display by a GUI / Event Manager.
7. (Original) The method as defined in claim 6, wherein the display comprises a web browser.
8. (Original) The method as defined in claim 7, further comprising the step of:
initiating a user selection process and notifying an event handler; and
receiving a user selection.
9. (Original) The method as defined in claim 8, wherein the user selection comprises a drag and drop mouse selection.
10. (Original) The method as defined in claim 8, further comprising the step of:
receiving notification in the GUI / Event Handler with selected source and target search result items.
11. (Original) The method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the step of:
forwarding selected source and target search result items to a downloader component.
12. (Original) The method as defined in claim 11, further comprising the step of:
attempting to access and retrieve search result documents represented by the selected source and target search result items by the downloader component.
13. (Original) The method as defined in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
determining if retrieval is possible and if the retrieval is not possible then sending an error message to the GUI / Event Handler.

14. (Original) The method as defined in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
determining if retrieval is possible and if the retrieval is possible then retrieving search result documents represented by the selected source and target search result items by the downloader component; and
forwarding the retrieved search result documents to a comparison unit.
15. (Original) The method as defined in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
receiving retrieved search result documents in a comparison unit; and
beginning comparison of the retrieved search result documents.
16. (Original) The method as defined in claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
computing a similarity value for the retrieved search result documents; and
forwarding the value to the GUI / Event Manager.
17. (Original) The method as defined in claim 16, further comprising the step of:
generating a display graphic of the similarity value.
18. (Original) The method as defined in claim 17, wherein the display graphic comprises a Venn Diagram.
19. (Previously Amended) An information processing system for comparison of documents found on a network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units and hub processing units, the information processing system comprising:
a selection module for receiving a user selection request to select documents for comparison; and
a comparison module for comparing contents of at least two documents for similarity, wherein the comparison module returns a numeric similarity value which represents the similarity of the documents.

20. (Previously Amended) A computer readable program product for comparison of documents found on a network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units and hub processing units, the computer readable program product comprising instructions for:

receiving a user selection request to select documents for comparison; and
comparing at least two documents for similarity, wherein the instruction of comparing documents includes returning a numeric similarity value which represents the similarity of the documents.

21. (Original)The computer readable program product as defined in claim 20, wherein the user selection request comprises a drag and drop mouse selection.

22. (Original)The computer readable program product as defined in claim 20, further comprising the instruction of:

computing a similarity percentage for the selected documents.

23. (Previously Amended) A method for comparison of documents found on a network interconnected with a plurality of information processing units and hub processing units, the method on a hub processing unit comprising the steps of:

receiving retrieved search result documents in a comparison unit; and
beginning comparison of the retrieved search result documents, wherein the comparison includes returning a numeric similarity value which represents the similarity of the documents.

24. (Previously Amended) The method as defined in claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

forwarding the value to a GUI / Event Manager.

25. (Original) The method as defined in claim 24, further comprising the step of:
generating a display graphic of the similarity value for forwarding to the GUI /

Event Manager.

26. (Original) The method as defined in claim 25, wherein the display graphic comprises a Venn Diagram.